Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

infer that your mouse is of the ordinary color. I may mention, at the risk of telling you something you know already, that there is a kind of hiccoughing mouse; I also had one of these, but going one day on an exploring expedition in the wilds of a deserted rubbish room, he was lost, night overtook him and he froze to death.

This letter was occasioned by some general remarks made before the Maryland Academy of Science, *à propos* of Dr. Lockwood's recent article, which, like everything else he writes for the NATURALIST, is simply delightful. The whole subject is interesting. Who knows that mice have not *normally* the ability of so modulating the voice as to produce musical notes, though the faculty may be only occasionally exercised? Birds themselves, as a rule, sing chiefly under the special stimulus of the breeding season. True vocal music having been generally, but perhaps too hastily, supposed to be confined to birds more information is desirable. Who can contribute something? — ELLIOTT COUES.

THE MUSIC OF THE RATTLESNAKE. — I have nothing to say in reference to Prof. Shaler's theory of the use of rattles to the snake, but while botanizing over the marshes of Michigan during the past few years, I have had a chance to become familiar with the sound of the rattles of the Massasauga. It is so much like the singing of some grasshoppers that I have often mistaken the sound of the insect for that of the serpent. — W. J. BEAL, *Mich. Agr. College.*

MELANISM. — Noticing what Dr. Wood says, in the last number of the NATURALIST, about "melanism," it occurs to me to say that black woodchucks are found in this region and in Washington, N. H.; and I have had a perfectly black chipmunk from Milford. — SANBORN TENNEY, *Williamstown, Mass.*

GEOLOGY.

GLACIERS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.— In the NATURALIST for February, in an article on "The Mountains of Colorado, Dr. J. W. Foster denies the existence of any evidence indicating the former presence of glaciers in the Rocky Mountains. He says that so far as he observed none of the rock surfaces are polished and striated, and that those accumulations of sand and gravel in the nature of terminal moraines are entirely wanting.

With regard to the existence of terminal moraines I am convinced that Dr. Foster is in error. Mr. Henry Gannett, who spent the summer of 1869 in South Park, and the region about Gray's Peak, informs me that a number of well defined terminal moraines may be seen west of Gray's Peak on the trail leading from Montezuma up the peak, and that on Clear Creek, which Dr. Foster says he took as his line of observation, near Fall River may be seen another terminal moraine. Mr. Gannett's testimony is confirmed by several other members of the party he accompanied.

Dr. Foster is undoubtedly right in saying that in the region he visited the rocks exhibit no traces of glacial markings. The granites and syenites that are first met with on entering the Rocky Mountains from the east are exceedingly friable and decompose with the greatest rapidity on exposure to the atmosphere, so that under these circumstances the planed and striated rock surfaces would long since have disappeared. It is only when passing westward, we approach the outlying spurs of the Snowy Range that the granites begin to be hard enough to retain any traces of glacial action.

Last summer in the collecting expedition to the Rocky Mountains sent out by the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Mr. Allen and myself had on one occasion opportunity of observing such traces of ice action as to leave in our minds no doubt of the former existence of glaciers in those mountains. These evidences of glaciation we saw near Montgomery, a mining town on the head waters of the South Platte in the northwestern part of Park county. The South Platte rises in the spur of mountains running west from Mt. Lincoln and flows eastward for about five miles through a broad gulch, the walls of which range in height from eight hundred to fifteen hundred feet. From an examination of the exposed surfaces of the rocks forming the sides and floor of the gulch, made by Mr. Allen and myself, I am convinced that at some former time the whole valley must have been filled with ice moving downward toward South Park. Wherever the rocks had not been disturbed by mining operations they were worn perfectly smooth and deeply furrowed with glacial striæ. I noticed several places where projecting rocks were polished and furrowed on the side facing up the gulch; and left untouched on the opposite side, showing that the ice field had moved down the gulch toward the Park. Near the lower end of the gulch I traced the glaciation to a height of eight hundred and more feet, or to the point where the exposed rocks were covered with detritus resulting from a disintegration of the higher peaks by atmospheric agencies.— RICHARD BLISS, JR., *Cambridge.*

DISCOVERY OF AN EXTINCT GIGANTIC BIRD OF PREY IN NEW ZEALAND. — Mr. F. Fuller, while directing some excavations in a marsh on the Glenmark estate, province of Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand, by permission of G. H. Moore, Esq. (whose researches have added so greatly to the evidences of the extinct birds of New Zealand), found, among remains of *Dinornis* exhumed at a depth of five or six feet from the surface, a few smaller bones, including claw-phalanges, which Mr. Fuller recognized as belonging to a large bird of prey. With two claw-phalanges were found a left femur, a vertebral rib with its anchylosed "epipleural appendage;" and, in a watercourse about two miles from Glenmark, a mutilated right humerus was subsequently discovered, and pronounced by Dr. Haast to be raptorial, and, as well as other and better preserved bones, most nearly resembling the corresponding bones of the New Zealand harrier (*Circus assimilis* Jardine). Dr. Haast, F.R.S., the accomplished state geologist of the province of Canterbury, has communicated an instructive and interesting memoir on these remains to the *Transactions of the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury.* He refers the gigantic raptorial bird of New Zealand, which was twice the size or bulk of the great wedge-tailed eagle of Australia (*Aquila audax* Gould), to the genus *Harpagornis*, Haast, giving it the specific name *Moorei*, after the liberal partner of Kermode and Co., owners of the Glenmark property. He conjectures, on good grounds, that this huge raptorial bird preyed upon the young or feeble individuals of the genus *Dinornis*, and, with them, became extinct. Dr. Haast deduces from this discovery an additional confirmation of his belief that the present aboriginals of New Zealand do not possess any traditions about the gigantic Moas, and writes, "that, if trustworthy traditions about the *Dinornis* had been handed down to us, the still more alarming existence of this gigantic bird of prey contemporaneous with the former would most certainly have also been recorded." I may remark that the individual who, in 1839, submitted to me, with other New Zealand rarities, the fragment of bone which gave the first evidence of great wingless birds in that island, stated that the natives from whom he obtained it had "a tradition that it belonged to a bird of the eagle kind which had become extinct, and to which they gave the name of 'Movie.'" (*Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, Nov. 12, 1839, p. 169.) I am now, of course, disposed to attach more weight to this tradition than when it rested on a fossil proved to belong to a bird which could not fly, and which was at least as large as an ostrich. We may suppose the great raptorial species which we now know to have co-existed with the *Dinornithes* to have survived, by reason of its greater powers of escape, some time after the extinction of its principal prey; and the tradition of the great bird "of the eagle kind" may be a consequence of the knowledge of the *Harpagornis* continuing down to later generations of Maories than those who hunted down the huge herbivorous flightless birds.—RICHARD OWEN, *in the Academy*.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

ANOTHER LAKE VILLAGE.—"An interesting archæological discovery has recently been made on the shores of the Lake of Bienne. The Swiss Government has been for a long time endeavoring to drain a considerable tract of land between the two lakes of Morat and Bienne, but in order to do this effectually it has been found necessary to lower the level of the latter by cutting a canal from it to the lake of Neuchatel. At the beginning of the present year the sluices were opened, and the waters of the Lake of Bienne allowed to flow into that of Neuchatel. Up to the present time the level of the Bieler See has fallen upwards of three feet, and this fall has brought to light a number of stakes driven firmly into the bed of the lake. This fact becoming known, a number of Swiss archæologists visited the spot, and it was decided to remove the soil round these stakes to see whether any remains of a Lacustrine village, which they suspected had been raised upon them, could be traced. At a distance of between five and six feet from the present bed of the lake the workmen came upon a large number of objects of various kinds, which have been collected and are at present under the custody of Dr. Gross of Locrass. Among them are pieces of cord made from hemp, vases, stags' horns, stone hatchets, and utensils used apparently for cooking. The most precious specimen is, however, a hatchet made of néphrite (the name given to a peculiarly hard kind of stone from which the La-